

In the Claims

Claims 1-27 (canceled).

28. (new) A data storage apparatus, comprising:

- a host device;
- a first storage media having a tape cartridge form factor and including a hard disk drive for storage of data;
- a picker configured to move the first storage media; and
- a first docking device in communicative linkage with the host device and adapted to receive the first storage media from the picker.

29. (new) The data storage apparatus of claim 28 wherein the tape cartridge form factor is a Digital Audio Tape (DAT).

30. (new) The data storage apparatus of claim 28 wherein the tape cartridge form factor is a Digital Data Storage (DDS).

31. (new) The data storage apparatus of claim 28 wherein the tape cartridge form factor is a Digital Linear Tape (DLT).

32. (new) The data storage apparatus of claim 28 wherein the tape cartridge form factor is a Linear Tape Open (LTO).

33. (new) The data storage apparatus of claim 28 further comprising a tape cartridge having exterior dimensions, and the first storage media has exterior dimensions that are substantially identical to the exterior dimensions of the tape cartridge.

34. (new) The data storage apparatus of claim 28 further comprising a second storage media comprising a tape cartridge, and further comprising a second docking device in

communicative linkage with the host device and adapted to receive the second storage device from the picker.

35. (new) The data storage apparatus of claim 34 wherein the first and second storage media have identical form factors.

36. (new) A data storage apparatus, comprising:

- a host device;
- an interface communicatively linked to the host device;
- a plurality of storage media, wherein each storage media comprises a hard disk and has a form factor of a tape cartridge; and
- a robotic gripper communicatively linked to the host device, wherein the robotic gripper moves the storage media to couple with the interface and communicatively link with the host device.

37. (new) The data storage apparatus of claim 36 wherein the form factor of a tape cartridge is selected from the group consisting of Digital Audio Tape (DAT), Digital Data Storage (DDS), Digital Linear Tape (DLT), and Linear Tape Open (LTO).

38. (new) The data storage apparatus of claim 36 wherein the robotic gripper moves the storage media between an isolatively stored position and a communicatively linked position.

39. (new) The data storage apparatus of claim 36 further comprising a plurality of tape cartridges, wherein the robotic gripper moves the tape cartridges to communicatively link with the host device.

40. (new) A method, comprising:

- storing data on a storage media including a hard disk, the storage media having exterior dimensions that are substantially identical to exterior dimensions of a tape cartridge;

moving the storage media with an automatic cartridge handling device from a storage position to an interface;
communicatively linking the storage media through the interface to a host device;
performing at least one of reading from and writing to the hard disk; and
moving the storage media with the automatic cartridge handling device back to the storage position.

41. (new) The method of claim 40 further comprising:

storing data on a tape cartridge;
moving the tape cartridge with the automatic cartridge handling device from a tape storage position to the interface;
communicatively linking the tape cartridge through the interface to the host device;
performing at least one of reading from and writing to the tape cartridge; and
moving the tape cartridge with the automatic cartridge handling device back to the tape storage position.

42. (new) The method of claim 41 further comprising providing the storage media and the tape cartridge with an identical form factor.

43. (new) The method of claim 42 further comprising providing the form factor as a tape cartridge form factor.